

# State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

## WINE AND GRAPE APPRECIATION MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the wine community is an important part of agribusiness in North Carolina and wineries are flourishing across the Tar Heel State; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina currently has 72 wineries and 400 commercial grape growers; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina ranks 10th nationally in grape and wine production; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina is the home of our nation's first cultivated wine grape, the scuppernong, discovered growing wild on Roanoke Island in 1585 by Sir Walter Raleigh's men, which led North Carolina to become the leading wine-producing State prior to Prohibition; and

WHEREAS, the annual economic impact of North Carolina-produced grapes and wine is estimated at \$813 million, with 5,700 jobs created; and

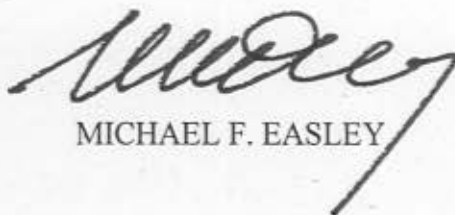
WHEREAS, according to the 2007 national survey sponsored by the Travel Industry Association in partnership with Gourmet magazine and the International Culinary Tourism Association, North Carolina is one of the top five state destinations for wine and culinary tourism activities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2005 study, "Economic Impact of North Carolina Wine," each year more than 800,000 tourists visit North Carolina wineries; and

WHEREAS, vineyards and wineries play an important role in North Carolina's tourism industry, with State wineries and vineyards significantly enhancing tourism by providing unique travel destinations, green space, and aesthetic appeal;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2008, as "WINE AND GRAPE APPRECIATION MONTH" in North Carolina.



  
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this eighteenth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.